CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ON EVE OF NOMINATION DAY ON 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1963.

Tomorrow is Nomination Day. The general elections will decide the next government of Singapore.

There were three reasons why we called for elections now.

Firstly, three important points which had been agreed in London on 8th July had not been properly incorporated into the Malaysian Constitutional documents.

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One: It was agreed that Singapore will go into the Common Market gradually over a period of 12 years. At the end of 5 years there will be a Review Board to decide, and even then we can choose to pay the Central Government compensation instead of imposing taxes. In spite of this the Tariff Board Ordinance passed recently in Kuala Lumpur made equalisation of taxes immediate after the 5th year.

Two: It was agreed that any restriction in migration between the States because of Singapore's autonomy on education and labour should be reciprocal. This amendment was not incorporated into Article 9 of the Constitution.

Three: Although the Tunku had agreed to delegate to the Singapore Government powers of detention over secret society gangsters, the Federation Government proposed to do this by purely administrative action which could be revoked at any time by the Central Government.

Two weeks ago in my discussion with Mr. Duncan Sandys, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and the Colonies, I told him that these and several other points outstanding with the British Government, like the $10 million which they had to pay us for land occupied by the Armed Services, had to be resolved by Monday, 2nd September. If they were not settled it was the intention of my Government to call for a general election in which these points would become issues. Now I am happy to report that these matters have all been amicably and satisfactorily resolved.

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But there are two other reasons why it is best for Singapore to have general elections now.

On 16th September, we shall enter a new phase, an era which can lead, together with the rest of our partners in Malaysia, to peace, stability and prosperity, or to chaos. One of the most important factors that leads to stability which in turn leads to prosperity, is for everybody to know where Singapore stands. The Common Market terms have been settled. The Jurong industrial site is ready for expansion. The only question of doubt in any investor's mind is which party will be the government for the next five years; and who will be the Ministers, because on that they will decide to invest and open factories or pull out. The sooner this is settled and finality established, the better for Singapore and for Malaysia.

The next reason is that the opposition parties had blocked our Bill for the election of 15 members in Singapore to the Federal Parliament. We must have the 15 members to represent Singapore in the Federal Parliament in Kuala Lumpur as soon as possible.

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It is our intention that these elections for the 51 seats will also decide the 15 members of Parliament in Kuala Lumpur. For we shall pass a Bill for the election of 15 members from 51 members you are now electing in proportion to the party representation as shown by the results of these elections.

Every general elections costs the government about three-quarters of a million dollars, money of the tax-payer that could be more usefully spent on constructive projects.

Now it is up to you to elect the next government of Singapore, and at the same time decide who will represent Singapore in the Federal Parliament in Kuala Lumpur, who will stand up and speak up for Singapore.

There is one difference about the general elections this time. With the agreement of the Federation and British governments and the Singapore Legislative Assembly, the Constitution has been changed so that any Assemblyman who resigns or is expelled from his party automatically vacates his seat. No Assemblyman after election can change sides. In other words, you will no longer be choosing an Assemblyman but the government. The party leadership constitutes the Cabinet. In this way there will be finality and stability for the next 5 years. It is for you to decide which party you can trust to lead Singapore to stability and prosperity and to defend her interests in Malaysia

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